

EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support

(Received via email)

Dear Sue,

I have worked with the MSG folks for approximately the last five years; the first couple of years I was in the position of overseeing the hatchery regulatory program for the Southwest Region of NOAA Fisheries. Frankly, I have never met a more dedicated group of people. In addition, their knowledge of issues/concerns regarding artificial propagation of salmonids rivals that of most state and Federal biologists working on these issues. In my review of all of the state programs that raise fish in hatcheries, MSG's protocols and approach were superior, especially with respect to genetic management protocols and overall conservation rearing objectives.

I recognize that hatcheries certainly can have negative effects on fish populations and that these programs need to be carefully considered. I believe MSG has done this. Many of the items they are currently seeking funding for are specific programs, materials, and facility improvements that I have discussed at length with MSG. Proposed improvements will greatly enhance their ability to meet program objectives. Additionally, Newer programs, like the rescue rearing programs, will likely provide substantial benefits to both our understanding of population status and biology, but are also likely to increase the resiliency of these populations to adverse environmental conditions.

Although the state listing of coho salmon may change the priority in terms of which species are reared or rescued, the proposed improvements and protocols would meet the objectives regardless of whether coho salmon or Chinook were the target species, primarily because of the conservation focus of MSG's program and the similarities in species needs.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,

Dan Free
Fishery Biologist
NOAA Fisheries
Southwest Region
Arcata Field Office

EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Arcata Field Office
1695 Heindon Road
Arcata, California 95521-4573
www.ca.blm.gov/arcata



In Reply Refer To:
6840(P)

September 30, 2003

Susan Corbaly
California Coastal Conservancy
Via Fax

Dear Susan:

I am writing to express support for the Mattole Salmon Group hatchbox program. The BLM and the Mattole Salmon Group have been working together since 1981 towards restoration of healthy salmon and steelhead populations in the Mattole basin. Throughout this time the Mattole Salmon Group has successfully completed numerous restoration projects from the headwaters to the estuary. The BLM and the Mattole Salmon Group have been working together since 1996 on monitoring salmon populations and habitat in Mattole tributaries. The Mattole Salmon Group has an excellent track record of using the latest scientific findings to guide their work and regularly seeks the advice of local scientists when planning projects. The hatchbox program and rescue rearing programs have been important components of salmon restoration efforts in the Mattole basin and, in my opinion, should be continued.

Thank you for your work on this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at (707) 825-2315.

Sincerely,

David Fuller
Fishery Biologist